

## October 2014 Issue

### Severe Thunderstorms October 2, 2014



**Photo Caption:** Left: a double rainbow over Bartlett on Stage Road at Old Brownsville Road following the October 2 storms; Right: winds downed a tree at the Deerfield Apartments on Raleigh LaGrange narrowly missing the building.

The National Weather Service (NWS) in Memphis issued a **severe thunderstorm warning** on October 2, 2014 at 3:37 p.m. extending its length three times to ensure safety for this long line of thunderstorms. The storms moved east to west across the MidSouth with winds gusting up to 60 to 70 miles per hour. Reports from the Shelby County Office of Preparedness included downed trees and power lines as well as quarter-size hail. Power lines were down at Central and Belvedere Boulevard in Midtown Memphis. As the first round of storms cleared, a double rainbow appeared in the sky. The NWS warnings resumed at 10:16 p.m. until 11:30 p.m. as a squall line pushed in from the west. The Memphis Light Gas and Water outage map showed 9,700 customers without power during the storm.

### Bartlett Power Outage

On September 19, 2014, approximately 13,700 Memphis Light Gas and Water customers in the Bartlett area were left in the dark. According to MLGW, the 11 outages were reported at 4:30 a.m. Areas effected were from New Allen Road east to Summer Avenue. Power was restored by mid-morning.

## Hazardous Materials Drill



**Photo Caption:** tanker hit by utility pole in disaster drill. (photo by Eugene Jones)

It appeared that something ominous had happened on President's Island, an industrial peninsula near downtown Memphis, on September 9, 2014 at 8:00 a.m. The area near Nexeo Solutions was cordoned off and swarming with first responders – numerous response vehicles bearing red and blue lights, lining up near 2351 Channel Drive. Their concern - a gasoline tanker truck was struck by a live utility pole – with the possibility of igniting. Realistic and scary to an outsider, however, it was only a drill.

The Memphis and Shelby County Local Emergency Planning Committee (M.S.C.L.E.P.C.) was simulating a potential hazardous materials accident to test state and local agencies. Participating in the event were the Shelby County Office of Preparedness, the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency, the M.S.C.L.E.P.C., the Memphis Office of Emergency Management, the Memphis Fire Department, the Memphis Police Department, and the United States Coast Guard. After the drill, the agencies will have an after action report to see if changes need to be made to their emergency plans.

The M.S.C.L.E.P.C. group, which includes representatives from industries, emergency response agencies, and area hospitals, meets monthly.

## Disaster Loan Center Opens

The United States Small Business Administration (SBA) opened a Disaster Loan Outreach Center on Wednesday, October 8, 2014 at 1075 Mullins Station Road, Building C, Room 113, Memphis, TN 38134. Anyone affected by the September 11, 2014 flooding event is encouraged to meet with the customer service representatives. Deadline to return applications for physical property damage is November 24, 2014 and the deadline to file economic injury applications is June 24, 2015. Visit [www.sba.gov/disaster](http://www.sba.gov/disaster) for more information. Hours of operation are:

- Wednesday, October 8: 1:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
- Thursday and Friday, October 9 and 10: 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
- Saturday, October 11: 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, October 14: 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

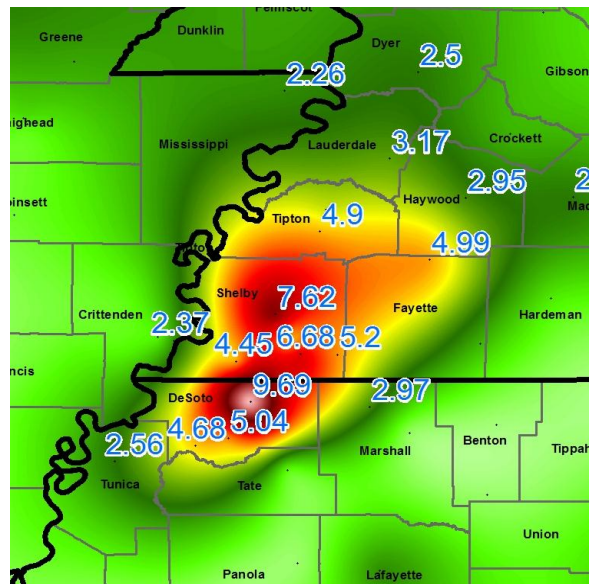
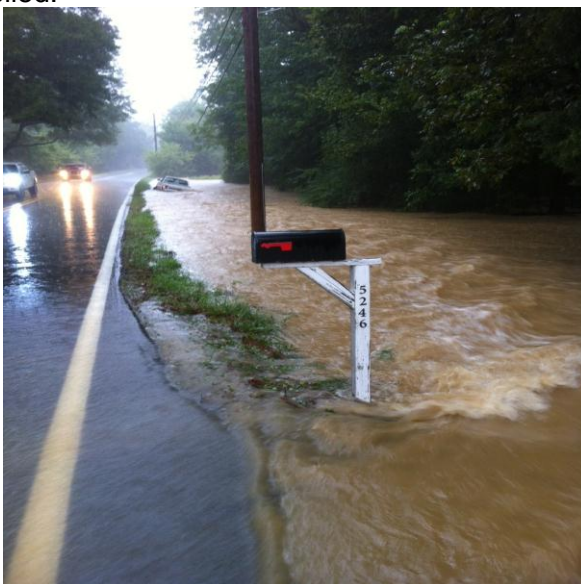


## Flash Flood Emergency!



**Photo Captions:** Left: Covington Pike at Coleman, vehicles floating in the high waters right of First Tennessee Bank, Right: vehicles attempt to drive through the intersection as the waters rise.

A line of pre-dawn showers and thunderstorms swept into the MidSouth Thursday, September 11, 2014 as a cold front pushed through. The National Weather Service (NWS) issued a flash flood watch at 4:27 a.m., followed by a warning, and finally a flash flood emergency. Nearby Fayette, TN and DeSoto, MS counties were included in the warning. The Shelby County Office of Preparedness activated the Emergency Operations Center to coordinate the response to numerous calls of flooded streets and citizens trapped in their homes or vehicles. By 8:41 a.m., 3 to 5 inches of rain had fallen in less than 3 hours. 4.45 inches were recorded as of 6:00 p.m. North of Bartlett received 7.23 inches. Citizens commuting to work during morning rush hour were surprised to find intersections underwater. Shelby County schools excused anyone late due to the flooding event. Most after-school activities were cancelled.



**Photo Captions:** Left: Brunswick Road flooded by the Loosahatchie River at Arlington (photo by Mark Tittle). Right: the NWS 48-hour precipitation map of rain throughout Shelby, DeSoto, Tipton, and Fayette counties.

Before flooding occurs in your neighborhood, have a plan. Know where “higher ground” is located near your home. Know more than one route out to evacuate from if your streets begin to flood.

Statistics show that most flooding deaths occur in vehicles. Remember, when faced with water on the road, never drive through water. Standing water can be deeper than it appears. Just one foot of flowing water is powerful enough to sweep a vehicle off the road.

Do the smart thing, “turn around, don’t drown!”



Most residential insurance policies do not include flood insurance coverage. Citizens are encouraged to find out how to “protect what matters.” To find out how to insure your property, your possessions, or both, please visit the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) web site. The web site includes a one-step process to assess your risks of flooding and recommends insurance agents nearby who offer flood insurance. The web site also has information concerning the new flood maps.

For more information, please visit: [www.floodmart.gov](http://www.floodmart.gov) or call 1.888.379.9531.

## Eye in the Sky



**Photo Caption:** Solar-powered Sky Cop

The Shelby County Office of Preparedness has enhanced their security and surveillance efforts with a new version of the Sky Cop or “eye in the sky.”

The towering camera provides very sharp and clear pictures during the day, as well as night time using infrared technology. It can record continuously and be remotely programmed by the Office of Preparedness staff using a computer, tablet or smart phone. The Sky Cop can be stationary and focus in one direction or pan back and forth over an area. The camera can be “motion activated” to follow a target as long as it is in camera range. The camera sits on a tower on wheels that can be quickly moved to any disaster site. It is self-contained and powered by a solar panel.

According to Mike Brazzell, Preparedness Officer, future plans include integrating the Sky Cop images into the Emergency Operations Center.

The new Sky Cop was purchased with Homeland Security grant money.



## Uptown Outreach



**Photo Caption:** First Baptist Church Chelsea

On Saturday, September 27, 2014, Reserve Ned Savage from the Shelby County Office of Preparedness joined other agencies to attend the First Baptist Church Chelsea Community Health Fair at 500 North 4<sup>th</sup> Street in Uptown Memphis. Porter Leath, Crye Leike, First Choice, Tender Care, United Medical Clinic, and the Step Ahead Foundation also attended the fun event. Citizens gathered up helpful brochures and life-saving information about healthcare and disaster preparedness. Inside, some citizens also took advantage of the free blood pressure checks. Outside, there were lots of games, basketball, and cook-out food for all to enjoy.

## SCOP Speaks at Citizen Academy



**Photo Caption:** Citizens from the South Main Station Precinct

The Shelby County Office of Preparedness (SCOP) is participating in the weekly Memphis Police Department Citizen Academy. Representatives from SCOP speak to citizens attending the academy about the importance of being personally prepared for all of the hazards and threats that may happen at any time in Shelby County. Citizens are given FEMA and Citizen Corps brochures and handouts from the agency. Representatives from SCOP have visited at the Airways, Old Allen, Raines, South Main, and Ridgeway precincts. The weekly talks continue through October.

## Office of Preparedness thanks Bob Nations, Jr.



**Photo Captions:** Left: Jim Belles, NWS, presented Nations with a plaque; Center: Nations expressed thanks to all who partnered with the agency; Right: Levell Blanchard, Deputy Director, presents a plaque of gratitude to Nations from the staff.

On September 30, 2014 the Shelby County Emergency Operations Center was packed with emergency professionals, representatives from the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency (TEMA), members of the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI), Shelby County law enforcement and health department personnel, and his staff at a special called meeting. The gathering was to thank all attending and say “good-bye”....it was Bob Nations last day as director.

After the Pledge of Allegiance, Nations started the meeting by proudly introducing his wife and in-laws and thanking everyone for attending. Nations said that as the Office of Preparedness director for the past seven years, “every day you are responding to something.” He spoke about the importance of living a life of passion and stated that “no one can work in emergency management without having passion for helping others.”

He thanked numerous individuals and groups for their dedication as “outstanding public servants.” In particular, Nations praised the members of the 6-county UASI group and said he was very proud of these working relationships. He also was appreciative for the support from the University of Memphis in creating a GIS system, the Memphis Police Department, the Shelby County Health Department, the Shelby County Sheriff’s Office, the MidSouth Contingency Planners, and EMA directors from surrounding counties. Nations accepted a “public service award” from Jim Belles at the National Weather Service (NWS). Belles mentioned the 2007 tornadoes and the 2010 and 2011 flooding events and said, “Every time there was a disaster, Bob included us. We formed a partnership. He made us part of his leadership. We value you, Bob, and we will miss you!”

Nations awarded “thank you” plaques to several individuals and groups he called “colleagues and partners,” including Vernell Stepter, retired Lieutenant Colonel from the Memphis Police Department. Nations took time to thank his staff (Levell Blanchard, Mike Brazzell, Terry Donald, Kimberlyn Boulter, Shannon Towery, Eugene Jones, Patrina Chambers, Shelby Logan, and Jesse Gammel) for their extraordinary hard work year round and every time there is an activation at the EOC.

Before heading the Shelby County Office of Preparedness, Nations served 30 years in law enforcement and was the disaster coordinator for Mississippi during Hurricane Katrina. He is the author of 2 text books on terrorism and disaster preparedness and is a professor at the University of Memphis.

## Preparedness Training Opportunities

**Community Emergency Response Team (CERT):** Learn how to prepare yourself and your family for all hazards and threats that may happen at any time in Shelby County. Modules include fire suppression, disaster preparedness, disaster psychology, light search and rescue, hazardous materials, and terrorism. Videos, lectures, and hands-on exercises provide the student with new skills and information to stay safe before, during, and after a disaster. The free classes are held at the Shelby County Office of Preparedness, 1075 Mullins Station Road, Memphis, TN 38134, on two consecutive Saturdays, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The next class is: **November 1 and 8, 2014**. Eugene Jones, Preparedness Officer, is the CERT Coordinator. Pre-registration is required. To sign up, please contact Sandra Mathias, Reserve Program Manager, at [mathiassl@bellsouth.net](mailto:mathiassl@bellsouth.net) or call 901.581.5664.



**Photo Captions:** October CERT student, left, Phillip Dominguez, learns how to shut off a gas meter; Right: Martha Carole Dancy-Daniel and Chyrrl Vollmer use a T-wrench to shut off water at the street.

Visit [www.staysafeshelby.u.s](http://www.staysafeshelby.u.s) to register for these preparedness classes:

- TEMA 8-Hour RAD Class. Tuesday, October 21, 2014, 8:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m., TEMA West EOC., 1510 West E. Bailey Bypass, Jackson, TN.
- AWR 232 Mass Fatalities Planning and Response for Rural Communities, Wednesday, November 12, 2014, 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Shelby County Emergency Operations Center, 1075 Mullins Station Road, C-113, Memphis, TN 38134.
- TEMA Damage Assessment Workshop, Tuesday, December 9, 2014, 8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., Shelby County Emergency Operations Center, 1075 Mullins Station Road, C-113, Memphis, TN 38134.



## Get Tech Ready!



The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) wants to text you! Citizens are invited to use their cell phone's text messaging capability to receive updates and preparedness tips from FEMA. To sign up to receive texts from FEMA, please text: **PREPARE to 43362 (4FEMA)**. You may also receive updates about specific disasters. Please text any of the following to 43362: **TORNADO, EARTHQUAKE, FLOOD, WINTER, BLACKOUT, FIRE, WILDFIRE, or HURRICANE**. To unsubscribe at any time, please text STOP to 43362.

The logo for 'do1thing' features the word 'do' in a bold, black, sans-serif font, followed by a blue square containing a white number '1', and then the word 'thing' in the same bold, black, sans-serif font.

[www.do1thing.com](http://www.do1thing.com)

### October do1thing: prepare for power outages!

When an unexpected power outage occurs, are you ready? Do1thing for October suggests the following to get prepared before the lights go out:

- Have flashlights ready in an accessible place. Have extra batteries on hand. Avoid using candles during a power outage.
- Have an all-hazards NOAA weather radio, battery-powered, with a tone alert, and an ALERTFM available.
- If you have a portable generator, make sure it is well-maintained, tested annually, and used in an open area, never indoors.
- Have a secondary heat or cooling source ready.
- Have non-perishable food on hand. Discard any refrigerated food if your refrigerator exceeds 40 degrees for longer than 2 hours.
- Never use propane or charcoal grills inside. You may be overcome with carbon monoxide.
- Have an annual drill with your family members on power outages.

# Preparedness Resources

## ALERTFM

[www.alertfm.com](http://www.alertfm.com)



## READYTN

[www.tema.org/READYTN](http://www.tema.org/READYTN)



## FEMA

[www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov)



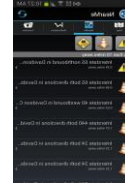
## Weather Channel

[www.weather.com](http://www.weather.com)



## TDOTSmartWay

[www.tdot.state.tn.us/tdotsmartway](http://www.tdot.state.tn.us/tdotsmartway)



Shelby County Office of Preparedness: [www.staysafeshelby.us](http://www.staysafeshelby.us), 901.515.2525.



SCOP\_HLS\_EMA

Shelby County Office of Preparedness Storm Shelter Registry: [Kimberlyn.bouler@shelbcountytn.gov](mailto:Kimberlyn.bouler@shelbcountytn.gov)

Shelby Cares - Faith-based Sheltering Initiative: [Terry.donald@shelbcountytn.gov](mailto:Terry.donald@shelbcountytn.gov)

Shelby County CERT Program: [Eugene.Jones@shelbcountytn.gov](mailto:Eugene.Jones@shelbcountytn.gov)

Shelby County Citizen Corps: [citizencorps@shelbcountytn.gov](mailto:citizencorps@shelbcountytn.gov),



[www.facebook-shelby-county-citizen-corps](https://www.facebook-shelby-county-citizen-corps)

Shelby County, Tennessee: [www.shelbcountytn.gov](http://www.shelbcountytn.gov)

ALERTFM: [www.alertfm.com](http://www.alertfm.com)

Center for Earthquake Research and Information (CERI): [www.ceri.memphis.edu](http://www.ceri.memphis.edu)

Central United States Earthquake Consortium (CUSEC): [www.cusec.org](http://www.cusec.org)

Department of Homeland Security: [www.dhs.gov](http://www.dhs.gov)

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA): Ready America, Ready Business, Ready Kids:  
[www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov), [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov), Citizen Corps: [www.citizencorps.gov](http://www.citizencorps.gov)

Memphis Light, Gas and Water (MLGW): [www.mlkw.org](http://www.mlkw.org), 901.544.6549, Outages: 901.544.6500, downed lines or gas leaks: 901.528.4465. Outage Map on line: [www.mlkw.com/residential/outagemap](http://www.mlkw.com/residential/outagemap)

National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP): [www.floodsmart.gov](http://www.floodsmart.gov)

National Weather Service (NWS): [www.weather.gov](http://www.weather.gov), NWS Memphis: 901.544.0399

Ready Tennessee: [www.tn.gov/homelandsecurity/getready.shtml](http://www.tn.gov/homelandsecurity/getready.shtml)

Tennessee Emergency Management Agency (TEMA): [www.tema.gov](http://www.tema.gov)

Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT): [www.tdot.state.tn.us](http://www.tdot.state.tn.us), 1.877.244.0065, call 511

United States Fire Administration (USFA): [www.usfa.fema.gov](http://www.usfa.fema.gov)

United States Geological Society (USGS): [www.usgs.gov](http://www.usgs.gov)

Weather Channel: [www.weather.com](http://www.weather.com)

**EMERGENCY: 9-1-1**

